GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3693
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
PRODUCTIVITY OF WHEAT
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a)Whether the Union Government is considering a new perspective on agriculture and rural development that recognized the need for ending the rural urban divide by bridging for areas of deficit ;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) The measures taken by the Union Government to prove the productivity of wheat and the results achieved therefrom so far ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b) : Yes, Sir. With a view to ending the rural-urban divide, Government has identified four areas of deficit namely

(i) The public investment and credit deficit,

(ii) The infrastructure deficit,

(iii)The market economy deficit, and

(iv) The knowledge deficit. To bridge these deficits, Government has already launched several steps. These include Bharat Nirman Programmes, access to adequate and affordable credit to farmers, providing adequate and affordable infrastructure in rural areas, investment in irrigation and rural drinking water, improving the functioning of agricultural markets and increasing the productivity of farms through infusion of knowledge, modern science and technology.

(c) : To increase the productivity of wheat in the country, Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas` (ICDP-Wheat) since 1994-95. Under the scheme assistance is provided for propagation of improved production technology, integrated pest management through field demonstrations, training of farmers including women, transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, varietal replacement and production of certified seeds. As a result of these efforts, wheat productivity increased from 2.56 tonnes per hectare during 1994-95 to 2.71 tonnes per hectare in 2003-04 attaining a high of 2.78 tonnes per hectare during 1999-2000.